

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-06

AGRE-00 ACDA-07 /103 W

----- 017615

R 061952Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7682

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 35999

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR YS FT

SUBJ: SOUTH YEMEN FONMIN VISITS FRANCE

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE LEVANT (SERVANT) HAS INFORMED US THAT PDRY FONMIN MOHAMMED MUTIE (WHOSE NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON EMBASSY'S LATEST LISTING OF PDRY OFFICIALS) ARRIVED IN PARIS DEC 6 FOR A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. SERVANT DESCRIBED MUTIE AS BEING THE "ARCHITECT OF YEMEN'S OPENING TO THE WEST" AND SAID THAT THE FRENCH WANT TO ENCOURAGE HIM. HENCE HE WILL RECEIVE AN UNUSUALLY WARM WELCOME. IN ADDITION TO FONMIN GUIRINGAUD, MUTIE HAS APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD AND THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, AND EQUIPMENT AND ELYSEE SECGEN FRANCOIS-PONCET.

2. REFERRING TO ADEN'S IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POSITION, SERVANT SAID THAT THE FRENCH ARE CHIEFLY INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT DJIBOUTI AND CONVINCING THE YEMENIS OF THE SINCERITY OF FRANCE'S PLAN TO ESTABLISH A TRULY INDEPENDENT STATE. THE PDRY'S MAIN GOAL IS TO INCREASE
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FRENCH ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID. THE FRENCH PLAN TO

ENLARGE SOMEWHAT THEIR ON-GOING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, ELECTRICITY, SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY AND CEMENT MAKING.

3. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO OBTAINING PDRY UNDERSTANDING OF ITS DJIBOUTI POLICY, FRANCE HOPES TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH YET ANOTHER "RADICAL" ARAB STATE AND TO PROVIDE A WESTERN POLE TO HELP WEAN IT FROM THE SOVIETS. STRATEGIC CONCERNS, ARAB GOOD WILL TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED OIL SUPPLIES, ARMS AND OTHER MARKET CONSIDERATIONS, THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO BOLSTER AND IMPROVE FRANCE'S THIRD WORLD IMAGE, AND GISCARD'S UPCOMING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, ARE ADDITIONAL FACTORS EXPLAINING THIS LATEST FORAY INTO THE ARAB WORLD.
RUSH

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